

Remarks/Arguments

This Amendment is in response to the Examiner's Amendment/Comments and Interview Summary Form attached to the Notice of Allowability mailed October 29, 2007. Claims 1-4, 8-18, 21-22, 24, 26-27 and 29-33 are pending in this case and have been allowed. Claims 8 and 18 have herein been amended. Claims 1-4, 9-17, 21-22, 24, 26-27 and 29-33 remain unchanged.

In response to the Examiner's Amendment, Claims 8 and 18 are being amended herein to correct typographical errors and/or inconsistencies with respect to the pending claims. Specifically Applicant notes the following:

On page 4 of the Notice of Allowability, in the Examiner's Amendment to Claim 8, the phrase "wherein the identity" (5th line on Page 4) should have been underlined, as this phrase was being added to Claim 8. Since the Examiner's Amendment did not underline this added phrase, Claim 8 is being amended herein to correct this inconsistency.

On page 6 of the Notice of Allowability, in the Examiner's Amendment to Claim 18, the added word "niece" (last line on Page 6) should have been -- piece --. Claim 18 is being amended herein to correct this typographical error.

On page 7 of the Notice of Allowability, in the Examiner's Amendment to Claim 18, the phrase "to trace" (5th line on Page 7) should have had a strikethrough line (~~to trace~~), as this phrase was to be deleted from Claim 18. Claim 18 is being amended herein to correct the same.

Additionally, Applicant would like to clarify the Examiner's comment on page 2 of the Notice of Allowability, indicating that the limitation of "*-- wherein the mail producer is identified directly by reading the first source tracing code without accessing the mailing states --*" was incorporated into each of the independent claims. It is noted that the wording of this limitation varies slightly in the independent claims, each of which incorporate a similar limitation. Also, the

term "encrypted" was deleted from the claims as the source tracing code can be either encrypted or not encrypted.

Further, Applicants respectfully state that the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance on page 8 of the Notice of Allowability appears to be a general summary of allowed independent Claim 1, and is not an exact representation of the limitations in each claim. The allowed independent claims may have more and/or less limitations than those enumerated in the Examiner's statement. It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance on page 8 of the Notice of Allowability should not be used to interpret the cited claims. The allowed claims should be entitled the broadest reasonable interpretation without reference to the Examiner's statement.

The following is a complete and proper recordation of the substance of the September 28, 2007 telephonic interview:

- 1) No exhibit was shown nor demonstration conducted.
- 2) All of the claims which have been amended by way of the Examiner's Amendment were discussed, with particular attention focusing on the independent claims.
- 3) The prior art relied upon in the Office Action mailed July 11, 2007, and in particular Cordery et al. (US 6,073,125), was discussed generally.
- 4) The principal proposed amendments discussed were those reflected in the Examiner's Amendment.
- 5) The principal arguments presented related to the remarks/arguments previously presented by Applicants in the prior responses filed October 26, 2006 and April 23, 2007.
- 6) No other pertinent matters were discussed.

7) The general results of the interview are stated on the interview summary form. It was agreed that with the proposed amendments, the claims would be allowable.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required to Deposit Account No. 16-0657.

A postcard is enclosed evidencing receipt of the same.

Respectfully submitted,

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